

1st Vice President of the South Texas Regional Convention.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, Dr. Roberson was inducted into the Religious Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX. That same year, he received the L.A. Simpson Pastor of the Year Award. Over the years, he has received an NAACP Membership Citation, War Against Drugs Commendation and honors from the Sam Houston Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America. In 1986, he received an "Official Memorandum from the State of Texas" in honor of Martin Luther King Day. In 1982, the Mayor of Houston issued a proclamation declaring the month of June, 1982 as Building Project Days for Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Inc.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to such a strong and dedicated leader who has, over the years, been a great friend and mentor. Dr. Roberson has, through his ministry, touched the lives of so many people and we are all the better for having him in our lives.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GARY CLARK

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and I rise today to celebrate the life of Gary Clark, who died on June 22, 2005 at age 47. Gary was a longtime resident of Signal Hill, CA in the 37th Congressional District.

Over the past two decades, Gary served with great distinction in the world of public transportation. He was the head of the Government Relations Department at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, one of the largest public transit agencies in the country.

He began his transit career with the Orange County Transportation Authority and in 1988 joined the Southern California Rapid Transit District, which eventually became LACMTA.

In his capacity as Deputy Executive Officer of Government and Board Relations, Gary played a leadership role in coordinating LACMTA's legislative advocacy in Washington and Sacramento. He spent a significant amount of time on Capitol Hill over the years and, as a result, we came to know him and his work well.

Gary possessed great integrity and intelligence. His friends, coworkers and family remember him as a person of dignity, strength and compassion despite the pressures of a demanding job. He was the quintessential public servant who dedicated himself to the needs of the community and firmly believed in the mission and purpose of public transportation.

In addition, Gary was a man of great faith. He served as Director of Music for 13 years at Grace United Methodist Church in Long Beach, CA. He also actively served Grace Methodist as a Trustee and member of its Worship Committee. Additionally, he was selected to be a lay delegate to the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Although we know him primarily through his role in transportation policy, Gary displayed a

real zest for life and was passionate about many things—the church, politics, democracy, equality and sports. He was an ardent Los Angeles Dodgers fan and also closely followed the football team at UCLA, his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that we say farewell to a remarkable human being who personified the best in public service and served the public transportation community with honor and distinction. Gary will be truly missed. We extend our condolences to his partner, Peter Cobo, his mother, Berniece Clark, sisters Diane Kildun and Kathleen Larson, and nephews and nieces.

HONORING GARLAND, TX, TEACHER, SHERRY MULLINS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sherry Mullins, an outstanding teacher and community leader from Garland, TX. Ms. Mullins has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award in the field of history. This annual award is presented to a teacher who develops and uses creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. In her tenure as a teacher at North Garland High School, Ms. Mullins has consistently helped her students achieve at the highest levels in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. In preparing her students for the program, Ms. Mullins rose above the call of duty and equipped her students for success.

Mr. Speaker, I find it encouraging that there are extraordinary educators in this country like Ms. Mullins who work faithfully shaping the minds of our students. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Ms. Mullins for her commitment to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

GAMBLING EXPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is exploding throughout our country. Tribal casinos have been propagating at an alarming rate.

I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor. The number of tribes now actively "reservation shopping" is extremely troubling. The cover story of the May 9, 2005, issue of CQ Weekly reports on the explosive growth of tribal casinos and cites eight states—Oregon, Kansas, Minnesota, Florida, California, Illinois, New York and Ohio—where off-reservation gambling is being proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a copy of the letter I recently sent to President Bush urging his action on this matter, a May 9 memorandum prepared by the

Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress at my request detailing options the Bush Administration could take to address this issue, and the CQ Weekly sidebar article detailing the explosive growth of tribal casinos. If the administration believes it does not have authority to issue a moratorium to halt new tribal gambling operations, it should send Congress legislation so that we can take action.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

May 19, 2005.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The President, The White House,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Many in America, myself included, are deeply concerned by the explosive growth of tribal casinos. There are now more than 400 tribal casinos in 30 states. Tribes also are now aggressively seeking off-reservation land—commonly referred to as "reservation shopping"—to build even more facilities. This rapid expansion of casino gambling is spiraling out of control, with devastating consequences for our country.

This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue; nor is it a conservative or a liberal issue. It is a matter that calls for action in the best interest of every American. Casino gambling, once limited to places like Las Vegas and Atlantic City, is now coming to cities—and even small towns—across America and bringing with it all its social ills, like higher crime and suicide rates, increased personal bankruptcies and the break-up of families.

I write today asking that you issue an executive order placing an immediate two-year moratorium on the opening of any more tribal casinos until Congress can thoroughly review the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988. Congress, with the help of your administration, must examine the unintended consequences of this legislation and address the gaping loopholes in the law.

The moratorium also should apply to the federal recognition process of tribes, which is completely broken. As you know, I have long been calling for reforms of the tribal recognition process. I repeatedly asked former President Clinton and his administration to take action and have written your administration on several occasions asking for a top-to-bottom review of the process. To date, no steps have been taken to address the issue.

Something also needs to be done to address the issue of senior level staff leaving the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then immediately going out and representing tribes seeking federal recognition. Tougher restrictions must be put in place.

Native Americans have become mere pawns in what is now a billion dollar battleground as outside interests—and investors, some from outside the country—have worked behind the scenes to spur the growth of tribal casinos. In September 2001, the then General Accounting Office issued a scathing report saying the process was fraught with problems and needed improvement. The report concluded by saying because of weaknesses in the process, "the end result could be that the resolution of tribal recognition cases will have less to do with the attributes and qualities of a group as an independent political entity deserving of a government-to-government relationship with the United States and more to do with the resources that petitioners and third parties can marshal to develop a successful and political strategy."

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